

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2003**

At 5:04.m. Chairman Lee Panza called the meeting to order in the 4th floor dining room of the San Mateo County Transit District building.

Members Attending: Deborah Gordon, Marc Hershman, Sue Lempert, Lee Panza, Joe Silva, Mike King, Irene O'Connell, and Deborah Wilder.

Staff/Guests Attending: Toni Taylor (Half Moon Bay Councilwoman and C/CAG Member), Wes Lujan (Advocation), Ross Nakasone (San Mateo County Manager's Office), Sean Fang (Assemblyman Yee's Office), Walter Martone (C/CAG Staff - County Public Works), Richard Napier (C/CAG Executive Director).

1. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

None

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2003.

Under Item 3 in the first bullet, the word "do" was corrected to be "due."

Motion: To approve the minutes as corrected. King/Hershman, unanimous.

3. Update from C/CAG Lobbyist in Sacramento (in person) and confirmation of "support position on SBX5 1.

Wes Lujan provided a briefing on the latest news from Sacramento.

- The current negotiations between the Legislature and the Governor are focusing on the parameters of a spending cap that is being demanded by the Governor and limiting the time period for retiring the bond debt.
- The Republicans are pressing for a hard and firm spending cap. This approach is getting a great deal of resistance from the Democrats. There are rumors that some Republicans are considering an Initiative to the voters in the event that the Democrats continue to resist the cap.
- The Governor has expressed concerns that the State will run out of money. He has restarted the process begun by the Davis Administration to float General Obligation Bonds.
- Assemblyman Canciamilla (Democrat) in partnership with some other Democrats and Republicans have angered the Legislative leadership by signing a letter encouraging a bi-partisan budget deal in order to advance a resolution to the current stalemate.
- The budget deal that appears to have the most promise includes a 7 to 8 year bond financed through a triple flip mechanism, a guaranteed reserve fund, and some spending limits.

- The messages coming out of the Governor's Office have been confusing. There is speculation that this may be deliberate.
- The Legislature and the Governor are placing the blame for the impasse on each other and the status of the VLF reimbursements to local governments is being held hostage.
- Movement has started on developing an Initiative to repeal the requirements placed on businesses to provide health care benefits for their workers.
- Mr. Fabian Nunez was selected to be the new Speaker of the Assembly.

The Legislative Committee discussed the possibility of requesting local governments and the County Controller to withhold making ERAF and other payments of local funds to the State until the State guarantees the backfill of VLF to local governments.

Motion: To recommend that the C/CAG Board reaffirm the commitment of support for SBX5 1 to restore VLF funding to local jurisdictions. O'Connell/Gordon, unanimous.

4. Communication of C/CAG Voting Record for San Mateo Legislative Delegation Members.

The following ideas were discussed:

- Send out the voting record to the individual Assembly and Senate Members and request a meeting to discuss C/CAG's legislative priorities. Consider having the meetings on Friday, Saturday, or Sundays.
- Sponsor a breakfast similar to the one done by the Council of Mayors. Ask the Legislators to respond to questions about the voting records.
- Send copies of the voting records to the press.
- Appoint a subcommittee of the Legislative Committee to meet with the individual legislators.

After discussion it was agreed to have Lee Panza and Deborah Wilder meet with the individual legislators to discuss the C/CAG voting record.

5. Potential legislative priorities for 2004.

C/CAG Staff presented a potential list of legislative priorities for 2004. After discussion it was agreed that C/CAG should focus its efforts on bills and other legislative vehicles that have a direct financial impact on local governments. Other matters of interest to local governments may also be brought before the Legislative Committee and C/CAG to consider taking positions on; however these items will not be aggressively pursued by staff and/or the C/CAG Lobbyist unless there is a direct financial impact on Local Governments.

Motion: To recommend that the C/CAG Board focus its efforts on bills and other legislative vehicles that have a direct financial impact on local governments. Lempert/Panza, unanimous.

6. Update on housing bills for the 2004 Session.

There was no discussion on this item.

7. Letter to Senator Feinstein regarding Internet Tax.
8. Recommendations for appointments in the Governor's Administration (appointment of Dianne McKenna to the California Transportation Commission).
9. Consideration of request from Congressman Tom Lantos to support the Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003.

***Motion: To approve letters in support of these three items as presented.
Lempert/O'Connell, unanimous.***

10. Adjournment.

At 6:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.